

## **TEMPORARY MECHANICALLY STABILIZED EARTH RETAINING WALLS**

Effective: January 6, 2003

Revised: December 29, 2014

Description. This work shall consist of preparing the design, furnishing the materials, and constructing the temporary mechanically stabilized earth (TMSE) retaining wall to the lines, grades and dimensions shown in the contract plans and as directed by the Engineer.

General. The TMSE retaining wall shall consist of a sacrificial fascia, a soil reinforcing system and select fill. The soil reinforcement shall have sufficient strength, quantity, and pullout resistance, beyond the failure surface within the select fill, as required by design. The material, fabrication, and construction shall comply with this Special Provision and the requirements specified by the supplier of the wall system selected by the Contractor for use on the project.

Suppliers. The Department maintains a pre-qualified list of proprietary structural systems allowed for temporary mechanically stabilized earth retaining walls. The Contractor's options are limited to those systems pre-qualified by the Department. These systems have been reviewed for structural feasibility and adequacy only. Presence on this list shall in no case relieve the Contractor of the site specific design or QC/QA requirements stated herein.

Submittals. The wall system supplier shall submit complete design calculations and shop drawings for the TMSE retaining wall system to the Engineer no later than 45 days prior to beginning construction of the wall. No work or ordering of materials for the structure shall be done by the Contractor until the submittal has been approved in writing by the Engineer. All shop drawing submittals shall be sealed by an Illinois Licensed Structural Engineer and shall include all details, dimensions, quantities and cross sections necessary to construct the wall and shall include, but not be limited to the following items:

- (a) Plan, elevation and cross section sheet(s) for each wall showing the following:
  - (1) A plan view of the wall indicating the offsets from the construction centerline to the face of the wall at all changes in horizontal alignment. The plan view shall show the limits of soil reinforcement and stations where changes in length and/or size of reinforcement occur. The centerline shall be shown for all drainage structures or pipes behind or passing through and/or under the wall.
  - (2) An elevation view of the wall indicating the elevations of the top of the sacrificial fascia. These elevations shall be at or above the top of sacrificial fascia line shown on the contract plans. This view shall show the elevations of the bottom of the sacrificial fascia, all steps in the base of the wall and the finished grade line. Each sacrificial fascia type, the number, size and length of soil reinforcement connected to the sacrificial fascia shall be designated. The equivalent uniform applied service (unfactored) nominal bearing pressure shall be shown for each designed wall section.

- (3) A listing of the summary of quantities shall be provided on the elevation sheet of each wall.
- (4) Typical cross section(s) showing the limits of the reinforced select fill volume included within the wall system, soil reinforcement, embankment material placed behind the select fill, sacrificial fascia, and their relationship to the right-of-way limits, excavation cut slopes, existing ground conditions and the finished grade line.
- (5) All general notes required for constructing the wall.
- (b) The bottom of the sacrificial fascia shall be located at or below the theoretical bottom of sacrificial fascia line shown on the contract plans. The theoretical bottom of sacrificial fascia line shall be 1.5 ft. (450 mm) below finished grade line at the front face of the wall, unless otherwise shown on the plans.
- (c) All details of the sacrificial fascia and soil reinforcement placement around all appurtenances located behind, on top of, or passing through the soil reinforced wall volume such as parapets with anchorage slabs, foundations, and utilities etc. shall be clearly indicated. Any modifications to the design of these appurtenances to accommodate a particular system shall also be submitted for approval.
- (d) The details for the connection between the sacrificial fascia, and soil reinforcement shall be shown.

The initial submittal shall include three sets of TMSE retaining wall shop drawings and one set of calculations. One set of drawings will be returned to the Contractor with any corrections indicated. After approval, the Contractor shall furnish the Engineer with eight sets of corrected plan prints for distribution by the Department. No work or ordering of materials for the structure shall be done until the submittal has been approved by the Engineer.

Materials. The TMSE retaining walls shall conform to the supplier's standards as previously approved by the Department, and the following:

- (a) The soil reinforcing system, which includes the soil reinforcement facing and all connection devices, shall be according to the following:
  - (1) Inextensible Soil Reinforcement. Steel reinforcement shall be according ASTM A 572 Grade 65 (450), ASTM A1064, ASTM A 1011 or ASTM A 463 Grade 50 (345).
  - (2) Extensible Soil Reinforcement. Geosynthetic reinforcement shall be monolithically fabricated from virgin high density polyethylene (HDPE) or high tenacity polyester (HTPET) resins having the following properties verified by mill certifications:

<u>Property for Geosynthetic Reinforcement</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Test</u>
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Minimum Tensile Strength

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ASTM D 6637

\*\* as specified in the approved design calculations and shown on the shop drawings.

<u>Property for HDPE</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Test</u>
Melt Flow Rate (g/cm)	0.060 – 0.150	ASTM D 1238, Procedure B
Density (g/cu m)	0.941 – 0.965	ASTM D 792
Carbon Black	2% (min)	ASTM D 4218

<u>Property for HTPET</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Test</u>
Carboxyl End Group (CEG Max) (mmol/kg)	<30	GRI-GG7
Molecular Weight ( $M_n$ )	>25,000	GRI-GG8

(3) Facing and Connection Devices.

Mesh facing and Loop Facing Connectors	ASTM A1064 or ASTM A706 Grade 60 (420)
Tie Strip Facing Connectors	AASHTO M 270/M 270M Grade 50 (345)

Sacrificial fascia and connection devices used with geosynthetic soil reinforcement shall be manufactured from virgin or recycled polyvinyl chloride having the following properties:

<u>Property for polyvinyl chloride</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Test</u>
Heat Deflection Temperature (°F)	155 - 164	ASTM D 1896
Notched IZOD 1/8 inch @ 73°F (ft-lb/in)	4 – 12	ASTM D 256
Coefficient of Linear Exp. (in/in/°F)	3.5 – 4.5	ASTM D 696
Hardness, Shore D	79	ASTM D 2240

<u>Property for polypropylene</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Test</u>
Melt Flow Rate (g/cm)	0.060 – 0.150	ASTM D 1238, Procedure B
Density (g/cu cm)	0.88 – 0.92	ASTM D 792

(b) The select fill, defined as the material placed in the reinforced volume behind the wall, shall be according to Sections 1003 and 1004 of the Standard Specifications and the following:

- (1) Select Fill Gradation. Either a coarse aggregate or a fine aggregate may be used. For coarse aggregate, gradations CA 6 thru CA 16 may be used. If geosynthetic reinforcing is used, the coarse aggregate gradations shall be limited to CA 12 thru CA 16. For fine aggregate, gradations FA 1, FA 2, or FA 20 may be used.
- (2) Select Fill Quality. The coarse or fine aggregate shall have a maximum sodium sulfate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) loss of 15 percent according to Illinois Modified AASHTO T 104.
- (3) Select Fill Internal Friction Angle. The effective internal friction angle for the coarse or fine aggregate shall be a minimum 34 degrees according to AASHTO T 236 on samples

compacted to 95 percent density according to Illinois Modified AASHTO T 99. The AASHTO T 296 test with pore pressure measurement may be used in lieu of AASHTO T 236. If the vendor's design uses a friction angle higher than 34 degrees, as indicated on the approved shop drawings, this higher value shall be taken as the minimum required.

- (4) Test Frequency. Prior to start of construction, the Contractor shall provide an internal friction angle test results to show the select fill material meets the specification requirement. This test result shall be no more than 12 months old. In addition, a sample of select fill material will be obtained for testing and approval by the Department. Thereafter, the minimum frequency of sampling and testing by the department at the jobsite will be one per 40,000 tons (36,300 metric tons) of select fill material. Testing to verify the internal friction angle will be required when the wall design utilizes a minimum effective internal friction angle greater than 34 degrees, or when crushed coarse aggregate is not used.
- (c) The sacrificial fascia may consist of a wire mesh, geosynthetic fabric, geosynthetic reinforcement or other suitable material capable of retaining the select fill and transmitting the applied loading to the soil reinforcement. Wire mesh shall be fabricated from cold drawn steel conforming to AASHTO M32 (M32M) and shall be shop fabricated according to AASHTO M55 (M55M). The geosynthetic fabric shall be either a non-woven needle punch polyester or polypropylene or a woven monofilament polypropylene with a minimum non-sewn lap of 12 in. (300 mm) where necessary.
- (d) The embankment material behind the select fill shall be according to Section 202 and/or Section 204. An embankment unit weight of 120 lbs/cubic foot (1921 kg/cubic meter) and an effective friction angle of 30 degrees shall be used in the wall system design, unless otherwise indicated on the plans.

Design Criteria. The design shall be according to the applicable portions of the AASHTO LRFD Design Specifications for Mechanically Stabilized Earth Walls, except as modified herein. The wall supplier shall be responsible for all internal stability aspects of the wall design and shall supply the Department with computations for each designed wall section. The analyses of settlement, bearing capacity and overall slope stability will be the responsibility of the Department.

External loads, such as those applied through structure foundations, from traffic or railroads, slope surcharge etc., shall be accounted for in the internal stability design. The presence of all appurtenances behind, in front of, mounted upon, or passing through the wall volume such as drainage structures, utilities, structure foundation elements or other items shall be accounted for in the internal stability design of the wall.

The design of the soil reinforcing system shall be according to the applicable design specifications for "Inextensible" steel or "Extensible" geosynthetic reinforcement criteria. The reduced section of the soil reinforcing system shall be sized to allowable stress levels at the end of a 3 year design life.

For steel soil reinforcement, the Corrosion protection for the 3 year design life shall be provided using a sacrificial steel thickness computed for all exposed surfaces.

Geosynthetic soil reinforcing systems shall be designed to account for the strength reduction due to long-term creep, chemical and biological degradation, as well as installation damage.

Typical design procedures and details, once accepted by the Department, shall be followed. All wall system changes shall be submitted in advance to the Department for approval.

The sacrificial fascia and its connection to the soil reinforcement shall be sized for a minimum design life of 3 years.

All soil reinforcement elements shall be directly connected to the sacrificial fascia and shall have an allowable pullout capacity, from the sacrificial fascia, based on the maximum tensile loading occurring in the soil reinforcement. The soil reinforcements maximum vertical center to center spacing shall be 20 in. (500 mm) and in the horizontal direction, the clear distance between the edge of one soil reinforcement to the next must not exceed 30 in. (760 mm).

Construction. The Contractor shall obtain technical assistance from the supplier during wall erection to demonstrate proper construction procedures and shall include any costs related to this technical assistance in the unit price bid for this item.

The foundation soils supporting the structure shall be graded for a width equal to or exceeding the length of the soil reinforcement. Prior to wall construction, the foundation shall be compacted with a smooth wheel vibratory roller. Any foundation soils found to be unsuitable shall be removed and replaced, as directed by the Engineer, and shall be paid for separately according to Section 202.

As select fill material is placed behind a sacrificial fascia element, the sacrificial fascia element shall be maintained in its proper inclined position according to the supplier specifications and as approved by the Engineer. The sacrificial fascia shall be erected to insure that it is located within 3 in. (75 mm) from the nominal contract plan offset at any location.

The select fill and embankment placement shall closely follow the erection of each lift of sacrificial fascia. At each soil reinforcement level, the fill material should be roughly leveled and compacted before placing and attaching the soil reinforcing system. The soil reinforcement and the maximum lift thickness shall be placed according to the supplier's recommended procedures except, the lifts for select fill shall not exceed 10 in. (255 mm) loose measurement or as approved by the Engineer.

If a fine aggregate is used for the select fill, the maximum lift thickness placed within the zone 3 ft (1 m) behind the sacrificial fascia shall be reduced to 5 in. (125 mm). As an alternative, a coarse aggregate can be used for this zone without a reduced lift thickness.

Embankment shall be constructed according to Section 205.

At the end of each day's operations, the Contractor shall shape the last level of select fill to permit runoff of rainwater away from the wall face. Select fill shall be compacted according to the project specifications for embankment except the minimum required compaction shall be 95 percent of maximum density as determined by Illinois Modified AASHTO T 99. Select fill compaction shall be accomplished without disturbance or distortion of soil reinforcing system and sacrificial fascia. Compaction in a strip 3 ft. (1 m) wide adjacent to the backside of the sacrificial fascia shall be achieved using a minimum of 3 passes of a light weight mechanical tamper, roller or vibratory system. The Engineer will perform one density test per 5000 cu yd (3800 cu m) and not less than one test per 2 ft (0.6 m) of lift.

Method of Measurement. Temporary Mechanically Stabilized Earth Retaining Wall will be measured for payment in square feet (square meters). The wall will be measured from the top of exposed sacrificial fascia line to the theoretical bottom of sacrificial fascia line for the length of the wall as shown on the contract plans.

Basis of Payment. This work, including placement of the select fill within the soil reinforced wall volume shown on the approved shop drawings, sacrificial fascia, soil reinforcing system, and accessories will be paid for at the contract unit price per square foot (square meter) for TEMPORARY MECHANICALLY STABILIZED EARTH RETAINING WALL.

Concrete appurtenances such as anchorage slabs, parapets, abutment caps, etc. will not be included in this work, but will be paid for as specified elsewhere in this contract, unless otherwise noted on the plans.

All excavation necessary to construct the TMSE wall shall be paid for as STRUCTURE EXCAVATION according to Section 502.

Embankment placed outside of the select fill volume will be measured and paid for according to Section 202 and/or 204 as applicable.